

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A tube gripping ferrule for a tube fitting, the ferrule comprising:

an generally cylindrical interior wall through the center of the ferrule so that said ferrule can be installed over a tube end; said ferrule being case hardened over substantially its entire surface;

an outer wall that axially tapers with a radially increasing dimension from a front portion of the ferrule to a back portion of the ferrule;

said front portion of the ferrule indenting and biting into an outer surface of a tube end when the fitting is assembled and pulled-up;

said interior wall comprising first and second cylindrical portions, said first cylindrical portion being axially adjacent a front edge of the ferrule and having the smallest interior wall diameter of the ferrule, and said second cylindrical portion extending to a back edge of the ferrule; said second cylindrical portion having a larger diameter than said first cylindrical portion.

2. (Original) The ferrule of claim 1 wherein said back edge of the ferrule is radially spaced from the tube end when the ferrule is assembled into and pulled-up in the fitting.

3. (Original) The ferrule of claim 1 wherein the ferrule is a front ferrule in a two ferrule tube fitting.

4. (Original) The ferrule of claim 1 wherein the ferrule is a back ferrule of a two ferrule tube fitting.
5. (Original) The ferrule of claim 1 wherein the ferrule comprises metal.
6. (Original) The ferrule of claim 5 wherein the ferrule comprises stainless steel.
7. Canceled.
8. (New) The ferrule of claim 1 wherein said front portion hinges inwardly and collets the tube end upon pull-up of the fitting.